

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as indicated in the complete listing of claims below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:
 - receiving a first request for an information object at an anycast address of a network, wherein the request is received at an information object repository selected according to specified performance metrics by communicating mapping mappings of an address of a client to one or more addresses of information object repositories and to one or more addresses of routers that have a best type-of-service distance to the address of the client between routers of the network by executing a Web Information Locator by Distance (WILD) communication protocol between the routers that runs on top of a Transmission Control Protocol (TCP);
 - resolving the ~~[[the]]~~ anycast address to a corresponding unicast network address for the information object, wherein the resolving includes transmitting a second request for the corresponding unicast network address in response to the first request, awaiting an anycast resolution response to the second request for a predetermined time~~[[;]]~~, and returning a failure message if the response to the second request is not received within the predetermined time, wherein the second request is a single IP packet having the anycast network address;
 - instructing the information object repository to obtain a copy of the information object at the corresponding unicast network address; and
 - returning the corresponding unicast network address, if the anycast resolution response in response to the second request is received within the predetermined time, the anycast resolution response is a single IP packet having the corresponding unicast network address.
2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising returning the unicast network address for the information object.
3. - 5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the performance metrics comprise one or more of: reliability of a path from the selected information object repository, available bandwidth in said path, average delay from the selected information object repository to a source of the request, average processing delay at the selected information object repository, and loads on the selected information object repository.

7. (Currently Amended) An information object repository configured to resolve a network layer anycast address of a network to a network layer unicast address in response to a first request for an information object at the network layer anycast address, wherein resolving the network layer anycast address includes transmitting a second request to the anycast address in response to the first request, to obtain a copy of the information object at the network layer unicast address, and to receive an anycast resolution response in response to the second request to resolve the network layer anycast address, wherein the information object repository is selected according to specified performance metrics by communicating mapping mappings of an address of a client to one or more addresses of information object repositories and to one or more addresses of routers that have a best type-of-service distance to the address of the client between routers of the network by executing a Web Information Locator by Distance (WILD) communication protocol between the routers that runs on top of a Transmission Control Protocol (TCP), wherein the second request to resolve is a single IP packet that includes the network layer anycast address, wherein the anycast resolution response is a single IP packet that includes the network layer unicast address.

8. (Previously Presented) The information object repository of claim 7 being further configured to resolve the network layer anycast address by transmitting the second request for the network layer unicast address and awaiting the response thereto.

9. (Original) The information object repository of claim 8 being further configured to return a failure message to a source of the request for the information object if the response to the request for the network layer unicast address is not received within a timeout period.

10. (Currently Amended) A network, comprising:
at least one client configured to transmit a first request for an information object using a network layer anycast address;[[and]]

an information object repository configured to receive the request for the information object, to resolve the network layer anycast address into a network layer unicast address that includes transmitting a second request to the network layer anycast address for the network layer unicast address in response to the first request, to obtain a copy of the information object at the network layer unicast address, and to receive an anycast resolution response in response to the second request to resolve the network layer anycast address[.]; and

a plurality of routers, wherein the information object repository is selected according to specified performance metrics by communicating -mapping mappings of an address of a client to one or more addresses of information object repositories and to one or more addresses of routers that have a best type-of-service distance to the address of the client between the routers by executing a Web Information Locator by Distance (WILD) communication protocol between the routers that runs on top of a Transmission Control Protocol (TCP), wherein the second request is a single IP packet that includes the network layer anycast address, wherein the anycast resolution response is a single IP packet that includes the network layer unicast address.

11. (Previously Presented) The network of claim 10 wherein the information object repository is further configured to resolve the network layer anycast address by transmitting the second request for the network layer unicast address and awaiting the anycast resolution response thereto.

12. (Previously Presented) The network of claim 11 wherein the information object repository is further configured to return a failure message to the client if the anycast resolution response to the second request for the network layer unicast address is not received within a timeout period.

13. - 14. (Cancelled)

15. (Previously Presented) The network of claim 11 wherein the anycast resolution response to the second request for the network layer unicast address is returned by a host having the network layer unicast address.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the first request is received at the information object repository selected without regard as to whether the information object is actually stored at the information object repository.

17. (Previously Presented) The network of claim 10 wherein the single IP packet comprising the second request for the network layer unicast address and the single IP packet comprising the anycast resolution response to the second request for the network layer unicast address further comprise an IP header and a UDP header.

18.-20. (Canceled)